

REMARKS

In the Office Action,¹ the Examiner rejected claims 2, 6-9, 13-15, and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,212,643 to Yoshida ("Yoshida") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,945,927 to Nakayama et al. ("Nakayama"); and rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Nakayama, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,012,014 to Koyanagi et al. ("Koyanagi").

Applicants amend claims 2, 6-9, 13-15, and 18-23, all of which remain pending and under examination.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 2, 6-9, 13-15, and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established at least because the differences between the prior art and Applicants' claims are such that it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the prior art to arrive at Applicants' claimed invention.

Independent claim 2 recites an electronic map apparatus comprising a microcomputer that "processes data of a plurality of arcs representing different geographical distances from the center, wherein the arcs are each superposed on the map displayed in the perspective view as ellipses" (emphasis added). None of Yoshida, Nakayama, and Koyanagi, taken individually or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed microcomputer.

The Examiner acknowledges that Yoshida does not teach or suggest "displaying a map in a perspective view." Office Action at 4. However, the Examiner alleges:

¹ The Final Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

"Nakayama . . . teaches the user viewing the map in a perspective view . . . with different areas, between concentric lines." Office Action at 4-5. Even assuming Nakayama discloses a perspective view with concentric lines (which Applicants do not concede), Nakayama fails to teach or suggest a "plurality of arcs representing different geographical distances from the center, wherein the arcs are each superposed on the map displayed in the perspective view as ellipses," as required by claim 2.

Koyanagi fails to cure the deficiencies of Yoshida and Nakayama. The Examiner alleges: "Koyanagi describes . . . grid lines or latitude and longitude lines to show a scale on a perspective view of a map to give the user a sense of distance." Office Action at 9. Even assuming this assertion were true (which Applicants do not concede), Koyanagi fails to teach or suggest a "plurality of arcs representing different geographical distances from the center, wherein the arcs are each superposed on the map displayed in the perspective view as ellipses," as required by claim 2.

Moreover, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to modify Yoshida, Nakayama, and Koyanagi to display "arcs [as] ellipses," without the benefit of Applicants' claims. In an exemplary embodiment of vehicle navigation, navigation systems must quickly convey a user's location relative to surrounding areas. Systems that require a user to look at a screen for too long can distract the user and lead to accidents. By displaying arcs as ellipses in a perspective view, a user can readily understand distances on a map. See Applicants' Fig. 2B. One of ordinary skill in the art looking at the disclosures of Yoshida, Nakayama, and Koyanagi, would if anything, be lead away from "arcs [as] ellipses." Yoshida discloses circles (not ellipses), without a perspective view. Yoshida, Fig. 3. Nakayama discloses a

perspective view, but uses colors (not arcs as ellipses) to guide a user. Nakayama, Figs. 18-19. Koyanagi discloses superimposing grid lines from a "birds-eye" view, but the grid lines are horizontal (not arcs as ellipses). Koyanagi, Fig. 6. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have found it obvious to modify Yoshida, Nakayama, and Koyanagi to arrive at Applicants' claimed invention.

Independent claim 9, although of different scope than claim 2, patentably distinguishes from the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 2. Claims 6-8, 13-15, and 18-23 depend from independent claims 2 or 9 and therefore also patentably distinguish from the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 2, 6-9, 13-15, and 18-23 under § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

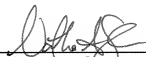
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Respectfully submitted,

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